

Abingdon Community Council Meeting
September 24, 2012

There were 5 members (C. David Copenhaver, Cynthia Hergenbahn, Earl Grey, Carlin Cook, Joan Hamilton-1st meeting) and 35 guests in attendance including: Cpt. Chris Swain (Harford County Sheriff's Office), Joe Woods (County Council), Dion Guthrie (County Council), Andrew Tress (Aid to County Council President, Billy Boniface), Representative for Delegate Glen Glass, Michael Bowen (Human Relations Council for Harford County)

The next meeting will be October 22, 2012 at 6:30 at the Abingdon Public Library.

- The meeting was called to order at 6:33 P.M. by Cynthia Hergenbahn, Chairperson.
- Captain Swain - Community Policing
 - In recent months burglaries have been on the rise but there has been only 1 during September so far; occurred because of unlocked window
 - When asked what to do if a citizen observes an officer doing something questionable, Cpt. Swain said he could be contacted at the precinct or could call IA directly.
 - When asked if crime reports could be obtained for the 3 Walmart locations nearby (in light of overnight camper parking being allowed), Cpt. Swain said that information is probably available online at crimereports.com.
- Announcements:
 - Cynthia H., chairperson, announced that County Executive Craig was not able to attend as first anticipated due to responsibilities following the sudden death of Dr. Wheeler, Chair of the Board of Education for Harford County. We are working on rescheduling.
 - There is a "Statewide and Harford County Ballot Issues" meeting on Thursday, September 27 at 6:30 in the Chesapeake Theater of HCC to clarify the wording of the questions and what a "yes" or "no" vote means.
 - There will be no ACC meeting in December.
- Open Forum Discussions
 - Q: Will the James Run Project proposed for the area near I95 and Rt. 543 have an impact on the Abingdon area?
A: Morita Bruce (Friends of Harford) stated that her concern was about the developer diverting money into a bond. In the past those bonds were not always used as intended.
 - Q: If the Walmart at Constant Friendship closes and any stores that go out of business as a result of the new Walmart at Plumtree and Rt. 924, that will leave vacant buildings. How do the police feel this will affect crimes?
A: Captain said he didn't anticipate that being a large problem, although stealing copper could occur.
 - Q: Walmart has been submitting plans, etc. to the County, when will they be reviewed?
A: There is a DAC (Development Advisory Committee) review scheduled for October 17 at 9:00 am at 212 S. Main St. (Black Box). This meeting is open to the public.
 - Q: How does Walmart obtain property for road/intersection expansion?
A: Walmart has asked permission from the County, but as yet has not been given that right.
 - Concerns/Suggestions:
 - How can Walmart shoppers be kept from taking a short cut through Bright Oaks?
 - Can the Walmart building be moved closer to the center of the property to better allow for road expansion?
 - Currently there is a deficit on parking by 28 spaces. Walmart is asking for a waiver to address this fact. Can that stop the process?
 - Can Evergreen be asked to sell more property to Walmart to allow for location adjustment?
 - There should be 2 DAC reviews because they anticipate more than 500 trips per day.
 - There are 5 schools in the vicinity of the proposed Walmart location. Even with current traffic conditions, cars are using school lots as turn arounds. Can this be stopped for safety reasons?
 - Why are there no traffic concerns being addressed from Plumtree north in toward town?
- County Councilman Joe Woods
 - Stated he is investigating another avenue to block Walmart but was not able to be specific.
- County Councilmen Dion Guthrie
 - The County Council introduced a resolution to be sent to the State asking that Walmart be denied access off Rt. 924.
 - Public can speak at a DAC review meeting
- Representative for Delegate Glen Glass
 - Del. Glass is opposed to the Walmart move.
 - No matter the results of question 7 on the ballot, VFW's and American Legion's will be able to have slots.

- ACC member C. David Copenhaver presented meeting guests with certificates for free coffee and donut courtesy of Dunkin Donuts on Rt. 924.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm by Cynthia Hergenbahn, Chairperson

Minutes submitted by Donna Copenhaver